

Serial No.: 09/965,750
Attorney Docket No.: F-350

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-18 were pending in the Application. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 15 and canceled claims 7 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. The Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-18 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the claim is clear as described herein when amended to rectify a cosmetic typographical error. The Applicant has amended claim 1 at line 5 to correct the typographical error that resulted in the antecedent basis rejection.

With regard to the rejection related to which hardware stores the voice message, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claim is clear. At claim 1 at line 9, the claim recites that the control system is for storing the voice message as shown at claim 1, line 12. See Specification at page 9, ll. 10-23 and page 14, ll. 9-11.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 comply with 35 U.S.C. 112 and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. The Applicant has canceled claim 7 and the rejection to that claim is moot.

Serial No.: 09/965,750
Attorney Docket No.: F-350

Patent

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and respectfully submits that the claim is clear as described herein when amended to rectify a cosmetic typographical error. The Applicant has amended claim 15 at line 4 to correct the typographical error that resulted in the antecedent basis rejection.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 15 and dependent claims 16-18 comply with 35 U.S.C. section 112 and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In section 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 5-7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicant has amended claims 5-6 and 12-13 and canceled claims 7 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer and has removed the phrase "and/or."

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 5-6 and 12-13 comply with 35 U.S.C. section 112 and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection. The Applicant has canceled claims 7 and 14 and the rejection to those claims is moot.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8-11.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-18 is patentable and in condition for allowance.

Serial No.: 09/965,750
Attorney Docket No.: F-350

Patent

4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

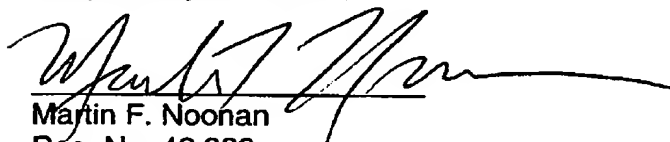
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for the Applicant at (203) 924-3453.

5. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-350.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-350.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin F. Noonan
Reg. No. 42,939
Attorney for Applicant
Telephone (203) 924-3453

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive, P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000